

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7707

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: TORTURE AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

1. ON JULY 18, RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE CONCEPCION TOLD FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS OF MEDICAL LAW THAT DESPITE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, "TORTURE IS EXTENSIVELY RESORTED TO, SPECIFICALLY IN COUNTRIES TROUBLED BY KEEN POLITICAL STRIFE." HE PROPOSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ANTI-TORTURE LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT AND FOR MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT OF SUCH LAWS. FOLLOWING DAY (JULY 19), REPRESENTATIVE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE (ENRIQUE REYES) PROPOSED "MANILA DECLARATION" AGAINST DOCTORS LETTING THEMSELVES BE USED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN PRACTICE OF TORTURE. CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WERE REPORTEDLY COOL TO IDEA SINCE PREVIOUS CONGRESSES HAD MADE NO RESOLUTIONS, ETC. INTERVIEWED BY AP'S ZEITHLIN, REYES PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF RECENT AI REPORT CRITICAL OF PHILIPPINES AND SAID HE WAS NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS IN PROPOSING DECLARATION.

2. COMMENT: CHIEF JUSTICE CONCEPCION'S REMARKS ARE BEING INTERPRETED (CORRECTLY SO WE THINK) AS NOT TOO THINLY VEILED CRITICISM OF GOP. GOP OFFICIALS'S GRANDIOSE SUGGESTION OF YET ANOTHER MANILA DECLARATION, THIS TIME ON TORTURE AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, SEEMS EFFORT TO BUILD BACKFIRE AGAINST AI REPORT AND POSSIBLY REPORT OF ICRC TEAM NOW IN THE COUNTRY INVESTIGATING DETAINEE

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CONDITIONS.

SULLIVAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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